

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 OPIC-06 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /103 W
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P 281230Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL GENOA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1519

UNCLAS GENOA 0527

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, ELAB, IT

SUBJ: TORRINGTON WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AT CONSULATE GENERAL

1. DURING COURSE OF MARCH THROUGH GENOA STREETS ON OCTOBER 28, TORRINGTON WORKERS LED BY METALWORKERS UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND FACTORY COUNCIL OFFICERS PAUSED IN FRONT OF CONSULATE GENERAL, ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND PREFECTURE TO PROTEST AGAINST MANAGEMENT DECISION TO CLOSE PLANT AND REMOVE MACHINERY FROM ITALY. THIS MARKED FIRST TIME CONSULATE GENERAL WAS INCLUDED IN A TORRINGTON PROTEST DEMONSTRATION. THROUGH POLICE, WHO PROVIDED EXCELLENT PROTECTION TO CONSULATE PREMISES, PROTEST LEADERS REQUESTED THAT CONSUL GENERAL RECEIVE A DELEGATION OF FIVE. WE AGREED TO REQUEST. DEMONSTRATORS NUMBERED FEWER THAN 150.

2. IN A BRIEF TEN-MINUTE MEETING, TWO METALWORKERS UNION LEADERS AND THREE MEMBERS OF FACTORY COUNCIL EXPLAINED THAT WHILE WORKERS CAN UNDERSTAND TORRINGTON DECISION TO TERMINATE UNPROFITABLE OPERATION, THEY CANNOT ACCEPT THE COMPANY S REFUSAL TO SELL THE FACTORY AND MACHINERY. WORKERS MAINTAIN THAT TORRINGTON WISHES TO ASSURE ITSELF A LARGE ITALIAN
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NEEDLE MARKET BY PREVENTING RE-OPENING OF PLANT UNDER NEW

MANAGEMENT. THE DELEGATES ASSURED US THAT THE WORKERS WON'T LET THEIR CAUSE DIE, AND HINTED THAT IF NO PROGRESS IS MADE FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS WILL NOT BE AS PEACEFUL. THEY REQUESTED THAT WE PASS ON TO EMBASSY THE IMPORTANCE OF TORRINGTON ISSUE IN LOCAL CONTEXT.

3.WE AGREED TO REPORT MEETING, AND STATED THAT AS IN PAST WE WOULD MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY, DEPT. AND TORRINGTON MANAGEMENT. OUR EMPHASIS WAS ON OUR INFORMATIVE ROLE IN SITUATION, AND WE MADE CLEAR THAT DECISIONS SUCH AS THE ONE TORRINGTON HAS MADE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.BRUNO

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